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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON EAST GERMAN ENGINEERS

KARL NEUBERT AND ALFRED ZAPPE

By W. Rueger and H. Weise

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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON EAST GERMAN ENGINEERS
KARL NEUBERT AND ALFRED ZAPPE

[Following is the translation of articles by
W. Rueger and H. Weise in Vermessungstechnik
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Engineer Karl Neubert

Professor Dr. Karl Neubert, Engineer Emeritus of the People, director of the Institute for Mine Surveying, professor of mining at the Mining Academy of Freiberg, is having his 60th birthday on 14 June, 1960. The science of mining and geodesy extends to him its heartiest congratulations.

By choosing mining as his profession professor Neubert has followed an old family tradition, for his father and grandfather were also in the mining business. He studied under hard economic conditions immediately after World War I and had to work in order to pay for his studies. By having his goal clearly in mind, he took his mine surveyor's examination in 1923 and the diploma examination of a mining engineer in 1924. His basic principle has always been that a good miner needs extensive and well rounded knowledge. This principle he is applying to the education of his students, for which they will always be thankful to him.

After a short period of activity at the Lignite Research Institute in Freiberg, and having been mining inspector for three months in the lignite mine on the left bank of the Rhine, Professor Neubert was appointed planning and projection engineer of the latter. In 1927 he went to the Dutch East Indies to take over the responsible position of a chief mine surveyor at the Billiton Zinc Mining Association, at first in Tadjong-Pandan and later in Klappa-Kampit. Shortly before the start of World War II, he returned to Germany and had to stand a probation period in order to obtain a mine surveyor's license.

Thereafter he was the assistant to Prof Dr. Lehmann in Essen for quite a few years, during which time he got closely acquainted with the problems of coal mining, mountain mechanics and rock defects.

In 1942 he presented his master's dissertation at the Mining Academy in Freiberg on the subject "Nomographic diagrams as an auxiliary means for the calculations of mine surveyors and miners", and in 1943 his doctor's dissertation (at the same Academy) on the subject "Disassembly formation in the safety pillar of the switchyard Osterfeld-Sud and of sleuce III of the Rhine-Herne passage for the obtainment of a possible steady lowering".

In 1943 he was a teacher at the School for Mining Engineers in Zwickau, and later group surveyor of the Zwickau coal district. At the Zwickau School for Mining Engineers he organized for the first time the education of surveying inspectors. This type of education was previously available only in Bochum and Preiskrotscham, but not in Central Germany. Prof Neubert taught at the Zwickau School until 1949.

The Mining Academy of Freiberg gave him an educational assignment and one year later appointed him Professor of Mining at the Academy. He also was appointed director of the Mining Institute. He was elected Dean of Mining and Metallurgy of the Mining Academy for two terms (1951 to 1953 and 1953 to 1955).

To the young generation of future mining engineers at the Mining Academy he is now giving of his vast practical experience as a mine surveyor and miner in the various branches of mining.

He gives to his students not only his great professional knowledge, but also influences them and takes part in the personal development of everyone during the years of their studies.

The outside student receives support from his educational letters on the subjects: mine survey, geodesy, studies in planning and tracing, special studies in mine survey, and surveying and geodetic instruments. Up to the present, Prof Neubert has issued altogether 18 of these educational letters.

The Technical College in Dresden assigned him to give a lecture on the subject "Introduction to mine survey" for geodetists. For the first time since 1953 this gives the students of geodesy a valuable supplement to their studies on peculiarities of surveying measurements and tracing.

In addition to his teaching activities, Prof Neubert is also doing in his institute successful research work in the fields of mine surveying planning and tracing, rock defects and surveying instruments. All this work

serves the further scientific, technical and economic development of surface and underground mining surveying. The results of his research work have not only been published in numerous issues of the Research Magazine of the Freiberg Mining Academy, Mine Survey Techniques and other periodicals, but have also found direct practical application, for which professional judgement is always very valuable. His authoritative influence has also done very much for the optical and precision mechanics industry in the line of development of surveying instruments and devices.

The scientific sections of mining and geodesy appreciate very much his cooperation and advice, which he never refuses them. Of the numerous committees and scientific sections in which Prof Neubert is a collaborator and in some cases the chairman, only some will be mentioned here: The Central Work-Circle for Research and Technology and its working groups, the Mining Trade Norm Committee, the Optical and Precision Mechanics Norm Committee, the Research Group for Mountain Mechanics at the Research Council of East Germany, the Mining Section of the German Academy of Science in Berlin, the Test Committee for the admittance of mine surveyors, the Editorial Committee of the periodical Surveying Techniques.

The multiple activities of Prof Neubert in the development of mine surveying for the benefit of the entire mining industry and for our economy, have found recognition in the high title of Engineer Emeritus of the People, bestowed upon him in 1953 for his successful work (from 1945 till 1951) as mine group surveyor of the Zwickau coal mine.

May his tireless creative work as a scientist and educator be always successful and contribute to the development of new ideas in the fields of mine surveying, mountain mechanics and in the study of rock defects for the good and prosperity of our mining and our economy.

Engineer Alfred Zappe

On 8 June 1960 our colleague Alfred Zappe will be 50 years old. We congratulate him cordially on his birthday and wish him good health and continued professional success.

Alfred Zappe studied from 1930 till 1934 at the Technical College in Dresden under Prof Werkmeister, and was later his assistant. He obtained extensive practical knowledge during land surveying work in Saxony. He also took a substantial part in the topographical mapping of Saxony in the scale of 1:25,000 and 1:5000, and in first stage levelling work.

After the collapse of our country he participated in its reconstruction and reorganization by doing surveying work in connection with the land reform. For several years he was the head of the Trigonometric Department of the Land Surveying Office of Saxony. His contributions led to the establishment of the first stage elevation system in East Germany. He strenuously supported the popularization of the Theory of Normal Elevation. Since 1953 he has been scientific head of a department in the Administration of Surveying and Cartography. Engineer Zappe did special service in the organization of the FA (abbreviation not explained in source) Surveying Service of the KDT (Chamber of Technology), of which he was chairman from 1953 till 1960. At the Second Congress of the KDT, he was awarded a Honorary Diploma, and in October 1959, a silver pin. On the 10th anniversary of the GDR, the Government presented to him a Medal of Merit for having taken an important part in the restoration of the foundations of geodesy in our republic.

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